

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022

SPEECH OF

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 21, 2021

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Speaker, I rise to support this bipartisan National Defense Authorization Act: which honors our values, supports our servicemembers and families, strengthens our security and advances our leadership in the world.

Thank you to Chairman SMITH, the Committee and staff for their patriotic, persistent leadership on this legislation, which reflects the brilliance and diversity of the whole House.

This bill honors our responsibility to meet the needs of the servicemembers who sacrifice for our freedoms, and their families. It does so by:

Providing a pay raise for our men and women in uniform,

Strengthening parental leave for caregivers,

Expanding access to child care,

Improving the financial security of military members, including those who are low-income and have family members living with disabilities,

Protecting military communities from PFAS “forever chemicals.”

This NDAA also makes historic changes to better combat sexual assault in the military, including creating an Office of Special Victim Prosecutor within each service to prosecute crimes and criminalizing sexual harassment under the UCMJ (Uniform Code of Military Justice).

And it improves military health care, including related to mental health, women's reproductive health and suicide prevention.

In terms of protecting our security, there are many provisions of which to be proud in this NDAA. This legislation helps America combat our adversaries and invest in our alliances—with strong action to deter China and Russia, fight transnational threats and counter violent extremism.

And it brings our defense further into the 21st Century—with an historic 36 percent increase in defense-wide research & development, \$2.5 billion to fix aging infrastructure & support security-related R&D, \$1 billion in new cybersecurity investments, over \$1 billion for artificial intelligence efforts and investments in new partnerships with the private sector and academia, including HBCUs and Minority-Serving Institutions.

This NDAA builds on Congress's bipartisan action in passing Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) legislation to provide for the relocation of our Afghan allies and partners, as it authorizes \$500 million for this effort.

This bipartisan policy bill has been signed into law for 60 consecutive years. We all look forward to seeing the Congress continue this proud tradition, as we pass this NDAA on a bipartisan basis and send it to the President's desk for his signature.

Doing so allows us to honor the vision of our Founders, as set out in the Preamble, to “provide for the common defense,” and “secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity.”

ALL-AMERICAN CITY TEAM OF WHEAT RIDGE

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 2021

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the All-American City Team of Wheat Ridge, Colorado for receiving the Wheat Ridge Business Association's 2021 Special Recognition City Award.

The Special Recognition City Award is given to a person, group or organization in Wheat Ridge who exemplifies outstanding service, leadership, and participation in the community. The All-American City designation is given to cities that have exemplified extraordinary qualities as a municipality and provides a great quality of life for its residents. The City of Wheat Ridge is most certainly deserving of this designation, thanks to the help of the All-American City Team. Its members include Val Nessler Beck, Kate Cooke, Terry Gale, Rachel Hultin, Eugene Kahng, Diana Lopez, Kathleen Martell, Joy Opp, Morgan Richards, Jenny Snell, Jesse Johnson, Adam Wylie, Coco Beck, Thalia Beck, Dave Nosler, and Matt Emerson. These men and women display passion and commitment to their community, and I appreciate their hard work to ensure the City of Wheat Ridge gets the recognition it deserves.

Congratulations to City of Wheat Ridge's All-American City Team for their contribution to the Wheat Ridge community and for receiving this award.

HONORING LABRITTANY NICOLE KNIGHT

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 2021

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a remarkable individual, Ms. LaBrittany Nicole Knight.

Ms. Knight is a native of Indianola, Mississippi. She graduated from Mississippi State University where she received her B.S. in Information Technology Services. After graduation, Knight took a job as Technical Support Representative at Cocolevio LLC.

Although born with spastic diplegia cerebral palsy, Knight said she views herself as very ambitious and conquers just about anything she sets her mind to. In her spare time, Knight spends time with her family and friends. She

is also very passionate about helping others and spreading awareness throughout the disability community. On September 19, 2021, Ms. Knight was announced Ms. Wheelchair Mississippi 2022.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Ms. LaBrittany Nicole Knight for her achievements and being a role model for her community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 2021

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and missed a vote. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 268.

HONORING CONSTITUTION WEEK 2021

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 2021

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in honoring and celebrating Constitution week.

234 years ago, The United States Constitution was signed guaranteeing our freedoms and inalienable rights from government tyranny. Our most sacred document defines our nation's principles and fundamental values that are the cornerstone for the greatness this country has achieved.

In honoring the Framers of the Constitution, let us take a moment and reflect on the promise of our civil liberties and celebrate the Constitution as the bedrock of the freedoms that together we all enjoy and cherish as Americans.

Madam Speaker, please join me in celebrating freedom, liberty, and the United States Constitution.

HONORING JOE GONZALEZ AS IOWAN OF THE WEEK

HON. CYNTHIA AXNE

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 2021

Mrs. AXNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a tireless advocate for the Hispanic/Latino community—Joe Gonzalez. Joe immigrated to Iowa in 1957 when he was 5, along with his mother and two younger brothers. Like many Iowa immigrant stories of the time, his family followed his father who came to work on the railroad. Joe is a retired member of the Des Moines Police Department where

• This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

he worked for 42-years and he remains a vital liaison in the department's outreach to the Hispanic/Latino community. Gonzalez was a long-time volunteer for Iowa's Latino Heritage Festival. He took over the reins of the festival as the executive director of Latino Resources Inc. in 2015, and has shaped the festival to what it is today.

In 1968, President Lyndon B. Johnson proclaimed a week in September as National Hispanic Heritage Week. The observance was expanded in 1988 to a month-long celebration (Sept. 15 to Oct. 15). During this month, America celebrates the culture and traditions of U.S. residents who trace their roots to Spain, Mexico and the Spanish-speaking nations of Central America, South America, and the Caribbean. September 15 was chosen as the starting point for the celebration because it is the anniversary of the independence of five Latin American countries: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. In addition, Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence days on Sept. 16 and Sept. 18, respectively. There are 22 countries from Latin origin represented in Iowa.

The Latino/Hispanic community brings so much value to our state, and Joe's work with the Latino Heritage Festival is a great way to highlight that value. The festival provides the public with a family-oriented event filled with learning through music, dance, food, children's activities, arts, and cultural exhibits from various Central and South American countries. It also emphasizes the uniqueness of the culture by demonstrating the diversity within the Latino community. Lastly, it creates a venue to showcase Iowa-based performers, artisans, cultural craftsmen, and artifact producers.

Through distinct activities and exhibits, this event educates the youth and gives them a better understanding of the Latino culture, while teaching them tolerance and appreciation of diversity. Part of the mission for Iowa's Latino Heritage Festival is to give back to the community through academic scholarships to Iowa high school and college students. The festival last year presented nine \$1,000 scholarships to students.

Joe's hard work and dedication to uplifting the Latino/Hispanic community in Des Moines has changed the lives of countless young people in the area. He has helped folks understand why it is important to have a diverse community in Des Moines, and he puts a spotlight on all of the wonderful the Latino community has brought to the metro area. It is my pleasure to honor Joe Gonzalez as Iowan of the Week.

BARTAHOUSE

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 2021

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize BartaHouse of Wheat Ridge, Colorado for receiving the City of Wheat Ridge's 17th Annual Reinvestment Award.

The award is given to a Wheat Ridge business that has reinvested significant resources back into our community. BartaHouse is an eye-catching, four-room boutique hotel that offers an amazing rooftop with views of the

beautiful Rocky Mountains. In 2019, BartaHouse engaged in a full-scale renovation, rebuilding from the ground up. The renovations and modern decor continue to be a beautiful part of our community.

Congratulations to BartaHouse for being a leader in the Wheat Ridge community and for receiving this award.

GOLD STAR FAMILIES REMEMBRANCE WEEK RESOLUTION

HON. DAN NEWHOUSE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 2021

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Madam Speaker, I rise to express support for the designation of the week of September 19 through September 25, 2021 as "Gold Star Families Remembrance Week."

HONORING AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT JULIUS JEFFERSON

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 2021

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Julius C. Jefferson, Jr., for his service this past year as the national president of the American Library Association (ALA). A fourth-generation native of Washington, D.C., Julius received his bachelor's degree in history from Howard University and his master's degree in library science from the University of Maryland. As a librarian, Mr. Jefferson has spent his career committed to advocacy, information policy, diversity, equity and inclusion and professional and leadership development. In recognition of his leadership and dedication to librarianship, the members of the ALA elected Mr. Jefferson to be their 2020–2021 president.

Like so many of us, libraries have had to adapt to changing circumstances during the pandemic, and Julius provided extraordinary leadership throughout this time. Mr. Jefferson began his term as ALA president with a virtual tour of 12 libraries. The "Holding Space" tour is what he called a series of virtual conversations that highlighted the innovation and impact of a diverse range of libraries around the nation. The "Holding Space" tour engaged stakeholders, including elected officials at every level of government, to advocate for libraries and the communities they serve.

I note that many of us in Congress benefit directly from the work of Mr. Jefferson, who serves as a section head of the Congressional Research Service at the Library of Congress. Mr. Jefferson has also served as president of the national Freedom to Read Foundation and of the Washington, D.C. Library Association. As a member of several boards, including the Black Caucus of the American Library Association, Mr. Jefferson has worked to diversify the profession of librarianship and elevate the principles of diversity, equity and inclusion.

Once again, I want to congratulate Julius Jefferson on his term as President of the American Library Association.

RECOGNIZING THE RAYMORE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

HON. VICKY HARTZLER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 2021

Mrs. HARTZLER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Raymore Presbyterian Church in Raymore, Missouri and to celebrate its 150th year of incorporation as a parish, which will be recognized on September 25th.

In November of 1871, the Raymore Presbyterian Church was officially organized, and their current church building was completed in 1895. It is now the oldest standing building in Raymore, Missouri. The parish soon began making positive impacts in their local community.

The Raymore Presbyterian Church parish expresses their love for their fellow neighbors by hosting an annual community food drive and by being supportive and comforting in the community. Since their church doors opened, they have continued with traditional hymnals, organ music, and a friendly and welcoming attitude.

So, as we approach the 150th anniversary of incorporation of the Raymore Presbyterian Church in Raymore, Missouri, let us celebrate what God has done through the numerous rectors and clergy and the faithful parishioners in the service of God, their community, and our Nation.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INCORPORATION OF THE VILLAGE OF BIRCHWOOD

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 2021

Ms. McCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 100th anniversary of the incorporation of the Village of Birchwood, Minnesota. Residents gathered on September 10, 2021 to kick off its centennial celebration with a public reception at the village hall and unveiling of historic markers.

Located just north of Saint Paul in the Fourth Congressional District, this charming village hugs the southern shores of White Bear Lake. Originally part of Grant Township like many other small communities in Washington County, it became a part of Lincoln Township in 1918. Development in the area began to boom after the streetcar service was extended from Wildwood Park to White Bear Lake in 1904. This sparked a community of summer cottages for residents of Saint Paul, who would take the streetcar to vacation on White Bear Lake during the hot Minnesota summers. 100 years ago, in 1921, Birchwood was first incorporated as its own village, though the State Legislature later decided to convert the "village" to a "City of the Fourth Class." But the term "village" had stuck, and members of the community amended the official name to "Birchwood Village."

Throughout its history Birchwood Village has been a wonderful place to experience nature right outside of the bustling Twin Cities, attracting visitors to picturesque public parks and beaches, many of which remain today.